

Against the Grain

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Angela S. Warsinske profile

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tion development policies state that librarians need to be able to justify the purchase of books they buy for the library collection. This way in the event that it is challenged by a library patron who feels the book is damaging for the public to read, a librarian can justify that he or she did not purchase a book based on their own biases or with an agenda in mind. Librarians can prove this through book reviews that also recommend the book as a good read. Therefore, it's hard to justify purchasing books that are culturally diverse, but not reviewed well.

These books must be new and recent, not only for modern children to get an accurate picture of the world, but culturally diverse or not after a certain amount of time some library books can become damaged from overuse and are hard to reorder when they become out of print. Also, due to shelf space books are weeded from the library's collection if they are not popular enough to be checked out frequently. This is usually done based on the book's circulation statistics and usually has very little to do with the book's content. If more books with diverse characters are diverse the less of a chance there will be that they will get weeded.

Diversity in the United States is growing. It is predicted that in the next 50 years the minority populations in the United States will surpass the white population by almost 10%. It can only be justified that there is a proper representation of the minority population in literature, especially in children's first interaction with books in their public library's picture book collection. A librarian should not have to struggle or work hard to find the books that this mother's son has asked for.

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against the grain people profile

Angela S. Warsinske

Youth Services Librarian, Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Towne Road, Rochester, MI 48307
Phone: (248) 650-7144 • <angela.warsinske@rhpl.org>

BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Canton, MI and since then have lived in various places in southeast Michigan including Ypsilanti and Wixom.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I am a member of the American Library Association, Public Library Association and the Association for Library Services to Children. I started working in libraries after earning my undergraduate degree. While earning my Masters in Library and Information Science I worked as a circulation clerk at the Canton Public Library and as an information resources assistant at the University of Michigan's Art, Architecture and Engineering Library. I currently work as a full-time youth services librarian at the Rochester Hills Public library. Before becoming full-time I worked part-time as the only youth services librarian at the Inkster Public Library and substituted as a librarian at the Baldwin Library and West Bloomfield Public Library.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, *Everything on a Waffle* by Polly Horvath, and *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: The industry is one that is ever changing and adjusting to people's needs and is therefore hard to predict. Today's patterns suggest libraries becoming a place for all demographics including those that are not common library users, circulating items beyond books and a more in depth use of technology. 🐼

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Reversals of Fortune: The New Normal of Collection Development

by **Karen Harker** (Collection Assessment Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX) <Karen.Harker@unt.edu>

and **Coby Condrey** (Collection Development Liaison Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX) <Coby.Condrey@unt.edu>

and **Allyson Rodriguez** (Strategic Collections Librarian, Univ. of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX) <Allyson.rodriguez@unt.edu>

and **Emily Billings** (Electronic Resources Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX) <Emily.Billings@unt.edu>

Introduction

The "great squeeze" of increasing costs and decreasing funding put our library into a series of budget crises which resulted in severe restrictions of library purchasing. Resistance, anger and frustration from faculty upon learning of the cuts was fueled partly by a lack of awareness of issues and techni-

calities from both sides. Faced with rising faculty push-back, the university president guaranteed a significant allocation of discretionary funding for collections purposes, but only for three years. This has presented the Collection Development Department staff with a dilemma — how to spend a relatively robust *but temporary* budget, while

planning for an unknown future. Through demand-driven acquisition (DDA), in-depth collection assessment, targeted enhancements, Open Access resources, and rigorous evaluation and tracking of current and possible resources we seek to meet the needs of our faculty and students.

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